



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

June 30, 2006

# News Release

## **USCIS NOTIFIES APPLICANTS OF ADDITIONAL FILING CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 24, 2006**

*One Service Center designated to receive all employment-based Forms I-485 (and related applications)*

Washington, DC – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today announced changes to the filing procedure for employment-based applications for lawful permanent resident status. **Starting on July 24**, all applicants filing an Application to Adjust Status or Register Permanent Residence (Form I-485) based on a pending or an approved Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker (Form I-140), also referred to as a “standalone filing”, should mail that form directly to the Nebraska Service Center. Applicants should file accompanying forms (e.g., Form I-131 Application for Travel Document, and/or Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization) at this same centralized location.

This change marks the second phase of Bi-Specialization, the USCIS initiative to implement centralized filing and bi-specialized adjudications. Through this effort, USCIS is aligning similar workloads between two “sister” service centers. **Starting on July 24**, the Nebraska Service Center/Texas Service Center pairing will process all employment-based adjustment of status applications (and related applications). Although the Nebraska Service Center will serve as the centralized filing location, some petitioners/applicants will receive a filing receipt from the Texas Service Center, if the case is worked by that center. The center that generates the Form I-485 receipt notice will be the center that actually adjudicates the case.

USCIS has previously instructed customers to file standalone, employment-based Form I-485 applications at one of its four service centers. USCIS will not reject any standalone Forms I-485 sent to an incorrect service center upon implementation of the amended filing instructions that go into effect on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Instead, USCIS will accept the filing, direct it to the correct location, and honor the initial receipt date. The July 24 change establishing a new filing location for standalone, employment-based Forms I-485 (and related applications) does not affect other aspects of the form instructions. USCIS will continue honoring prior versions of Form I-485.

More information about this filing change is available by calling USCIS National Customer Service Center (NCSC) toll-free at 1-800-375-5283, or by visiting [USCIS.gov](https://uscis.gov). The following [Fact Sheet](#) provides more details about the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Bi-Specialization filing changes.

– USCIS –